SUPERMAN™

THE DARK PATH

JOSHUA **WILLIAMSON** · JAMAL **CAMPBELL** · TOM **REILLY**

SUPERMAN

THE DEVIL

VOL. 3 **THE DARK PATH**

SUPERMAN

VOL. 3
THE DARK PATH

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SUPERMAN VOL. 3: THE DARK PATH

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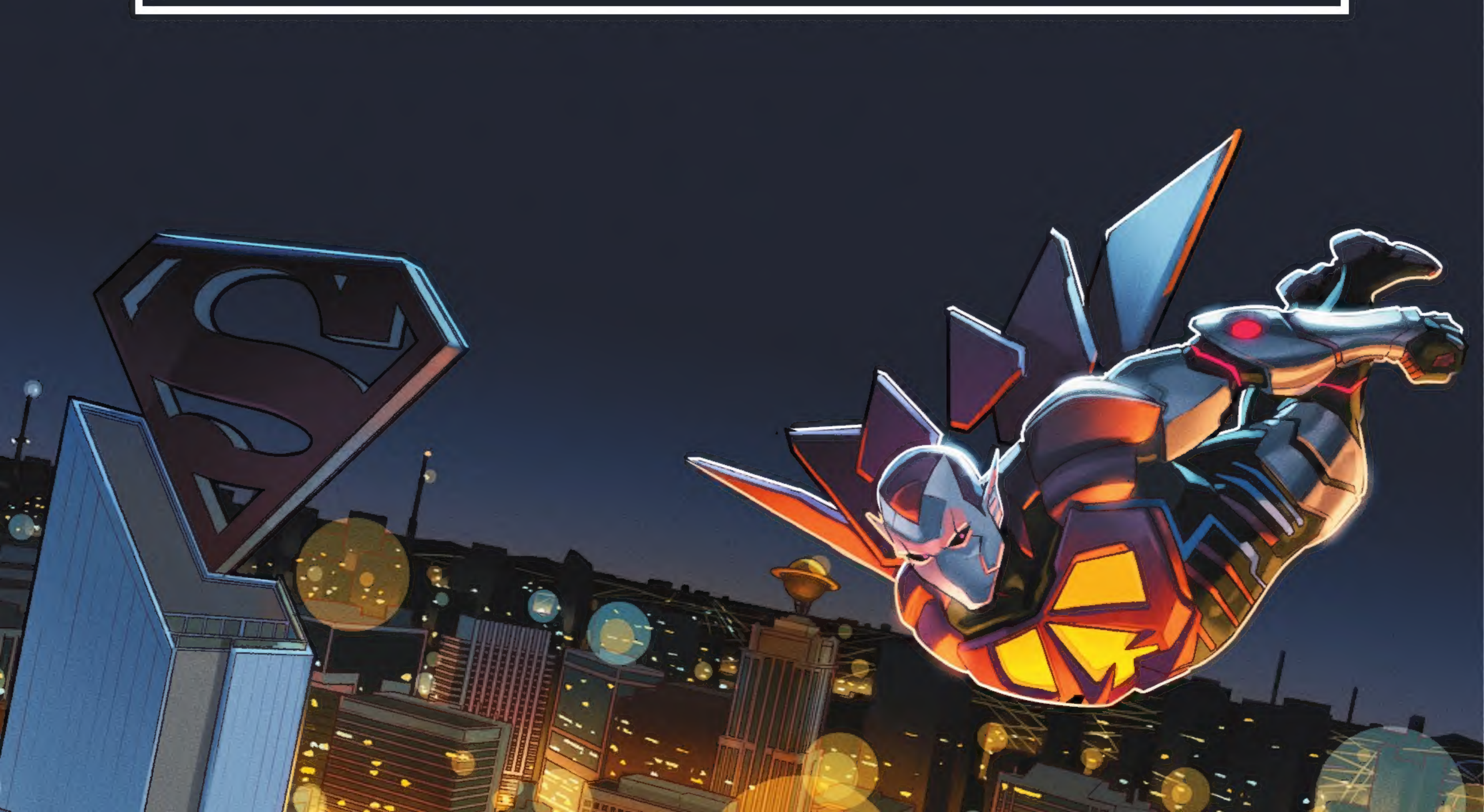


Superman #16 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #16 variant cover
by NATHAN SZERDY

ZATANNA

FEATURING:
THE
LEVITATING
SUPERMAN

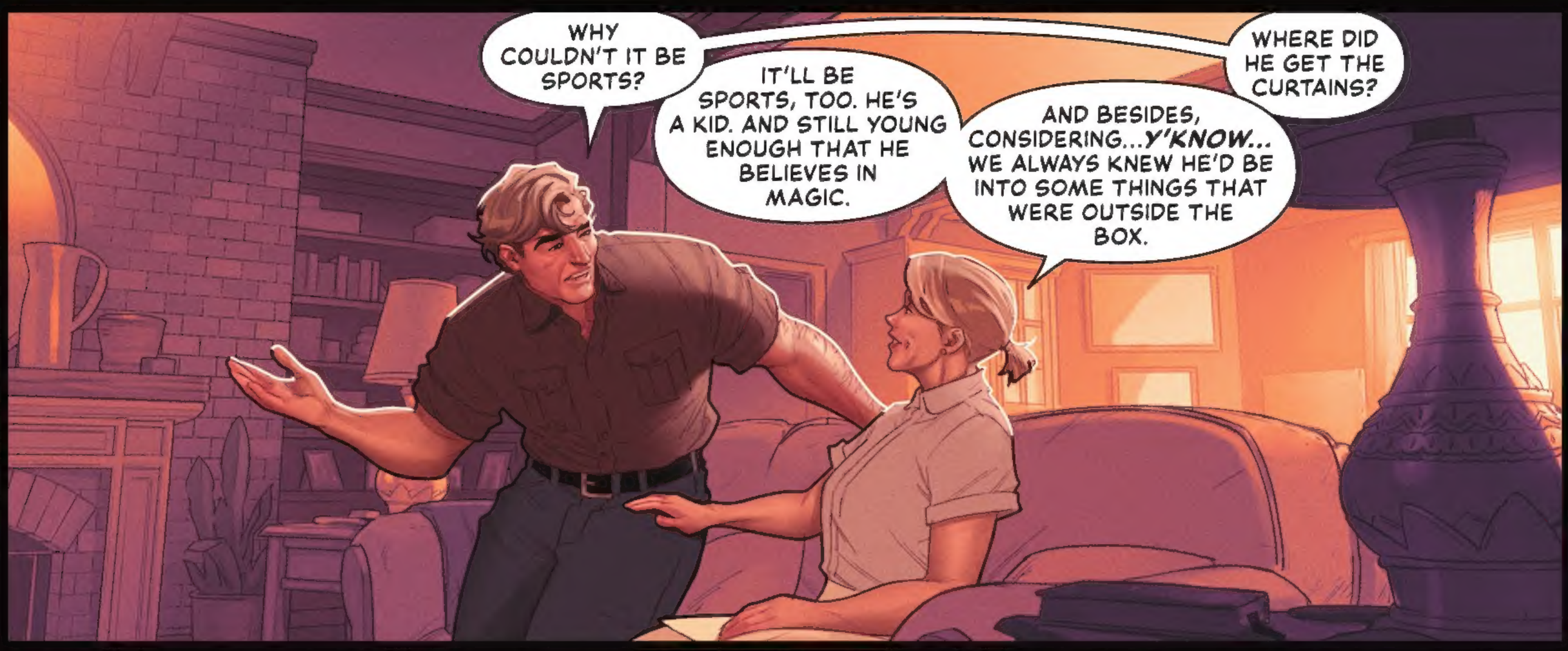
2 SHOWS
6 P.M. AND 8 P.M.

10¢
TICKETS

FAMOUS
MAGICIAN

SZERDY

HOW TO DO MAGIC FOR KIDS!!
GET OVER HERE AND SIT DOWN, JONATHAN.
THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.


WHY COULDN'T IT BE SPORTS?
IT'LL BE SPORTS, TOO. HE'S A KID. AND STILL YOUNG ENOUGH THAT HE BELIEVES IN MAGIC.
AND BESIDES, CONSIDERING...Y'KNOW... WE ALWAYS KNEW HE'D BE INTO SOME THINGS THAT WERE OUTSIDE THE BOX.
WHERE DID HE GET THE CURTAINS?

SHEETS WE FOUND AT A SWAP MEET...
YOU READY?!
YOU BET, SON!
OKAY, MOM, SAY THE THING!

OH, RIGHT. OKAY...
GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
THAT'S US.
PREPARE YOURSELVES FOR AN EVENING OF WONDER AND SPECTACLE. DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE ILLUSIONS AS THEY TRICK YOUR EYES!
PRESENTING...

CLARK THE CONJURER!

OHH, THE CAPE LOOKS *GREAT,* HONEY.

VERY EXCITED TO SEE SOME MAGIC TRICKS, CLARK.

IT'S NOT TRICKS, DAD.

MAGIC IS *REAL.*

AND ACCORDING TO THE BOOK...SHOULD BE TREATED VERY, VERY SERIOUSLY.

NOW PICK A CARD! ANY CARD!

OKAY... *DONE.*

NOW, IS YOUR CARD...

...THE QUEEN OF HEARTS!

HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, SON...

DANG IT, I NEED TO START OVER.

IT'S OKAY, HONEY. TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED...

HEY CLARK, IS THAT PART OF THE TRICK? I MEAN... *MAGIC?*

WHAT?

THAT RIGHT THERE...THE *RED* ON YOUR SHIRT?

I...I DON'T...

"HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD..."

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING A SUITABLE DONOR IF WE NEED MORE...

WE'RE LUCKY ONE BULLET WENT RIGHT THROUGH HIS CHEST.

IT'S THIS OTHER ONE IN HIS SHOULDER THAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT. CAME CLOSE TO HIS AXILLARY ARTERY.

HE'S A FIGHTER, FOR SURE.

BUT...IF ***SUPERMAN*** IS NO LONGER THE...***MAN OF STEEL...***

ABSOLUTE POWER

"MAGIC IS REAL" PART ONE

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON — SCRIPT
JAMAL CAMPBELL — ART AND COVER
ARIANA MAHER — LETTERS
NATHAN SZERDY, FRANK CHO & SABINE RICH, STEVAN SUBIC, PABLO VILLALOBOS — VARIANT COVERS
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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

PREVIOUSLY, IN *ABSOLUTE POWER* #1...

AMANDA WALLER HAS WON.
A PLANETWIDE BLITZKRIEG HAS ROBBED THE WORLD'S METAHUMANS OF THEIR SUPERPOWERS AND RESOURCES. THOSE FEW WHO HAVE THUS FAR EVADED CAPTURE ARE FUGITIVES ON THE RUN, HUNTED MERCILESSLY BY TASK FORCE VII, A REGIMENT OF UNSTOPPABLE AMAZOS BUILT BY WALLER'S ALLIES, FAILSAFE AND THE BRAINIAC QUEEN.
AND AS OF MOMENTS AGO...
SUPERMAN HAS BEEN *SHOT*...

...WHY DO WE NEED THE *KRYPTONITE SCALPEL?*

BECAUSE WE HAVE NO IDEA IF THIS IS TRULY PERMANENT OR IF HE WILL GET HIS POWERS BACK. IF HE SUDDENLY POWERED UP, WE DON'T KNOW HOW IT COULD IMPACT HIS INJURIES--WE MIGHT NEED TO CONTINUE OPERATING.

WE NEED TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING...

HOW ARE YOU SO CALM RIGHT NOW?

SAME AS YOU. BECAUSE WE *MUST BE*. YOU AND I HAVE DONE COUNTLESS SURGERIES...

...BUT NONE AS IMPORTANT AS *THIS ONE...*

"WE NEED SUPERMAN IF WE'RE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE OF SURVIVING THIS ATTACK BY *AMANDA WALLER* AND HER *AMAZO ARMY*.

"SHE HIT US ON ALL FRONTS.

"AND SHE'S WINNING."

THERE IS A CURFEW IN EFFECT!

STAYING INSIDE IS FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION!

IF YOU HAVE NO SUPERPOWERS AND ARE NOT A VIGILANTE, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

NEPO.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

CURFEW IS IN EFFECT! *LET'S GO!*

DAMN, NOTHING IS WORKING.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

GOT A CURFEW BREAKER THAT IS RESISTING ORDERS, SIR.

HOLY CRAP, MY SCANNER IS TELLING ME EXACTLY WHO THIS IS...

ZATANNA!

ZATANNA ZATARA

ZATANNA ZATARA. MAGIC USER...

...OR AT LEAST SHE *USED* TO BE.

THIS'LL BE AN EASY ONE. WITHOUT HER POWERS SHE'S JUST SOME *STAGE MAGICIAN.*

MAYBE SHE CAN SHOW US A *TRICK?*

DON'T SHOOT...

"YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T *ALWAYS* RELY ON JUST MAGIC?"

YOUR FATHER IS A TERRIFIC MAGICIAN, BUT IT CAN'T BE THE ONLY THING YOU LEARN IN LIFE.

THERE ARE OTHER SKILLS YOU COULD PICK UP THAT COULD SERVE YOU WELL SOMEDAY.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, BRUCE?

THAT *YOU'LL* TEACH ME HOW TO THROW A PUNCH?

OKAY, LET'S HIT THE ROAD, WITCH.

WHOOSH

WHAT THE--?

BANG BANG BANG

THUK

KRAK

HOW'S *THAT* FOR A TRICK?

HEY! MAN DOWN! MAN DOWN!

GET HER!

DAMMIT.

IOOOO

HUNH?

I SAW YOU ONCE IN VEGAS, **MS. ZATARA,** AND I'D LOVE TO WATCH YOUR SHOW AGAIN.

BUT I NEED YOU TO TAKE MY HAND FIRST, OKAY?

ANYTHING FOR A FAN!

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG

HOW DID YOU FIND ME, **MERCY?**

I KEEP AN EAR OUT FOR ANY TASK FORCE AGENTS. THEY'RE LIKE ***VULTURES*** THAT ***COLLECT PEOPLE*** AFTER AMAZO ATTACKS, SO I FOLLOW THEM IN HOPES I CAN GET THE SURVIVORS TO SAFETY.

WHERE ARE WE GOING? WALLER'S PEOPLE ARE ***EVERY-WHERE.***

WHERE COULD POSSIBLY BE SAFE?

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE.

THANKFULLY, AFTER BRAINIAC'S ATTACK, SUPERMAN SET UP CERTAIN EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES BETWEEN SUPERCORP AND THE FORTRESS. OTHERWISE WE'D BE EXTRA SCREWED.

OH NO...

I DON'T KNOW WHY I EXPECTED MORE TO BE HERE...

WE'VE GRABBED WHO WE CAN...WORD IS OUT TO REGROUP HERE, BUT WE'RE TRYING TO NOT CLUE ***WALLER*** IN TO THAT...

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU, **RED.**

YOU SAID.

AND I QUOTE.

"CAN WE TRUST ANY ROBOTS RIGHT NOW?"

I'M SORRY, DID YOU FORGET THAT THE AMAZOS ARE OUT THERE ATTACKING OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

THOSE AMAZOS ARE BEING CONTROLLED BY WALLER.

I HAVE A MIND OF MY OWN.

EXCUSE ME?

ENOUGH!

YOU SURE? COULD HAVE FOOLED ME.

BWAHEHEH.

NO MATTER THE SITUATION...

...WE CAN***NOT*** FIGHT AMONGST OURSELVES.

WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ***NOT*** HERE.

YOU GOT IT, BIG GUY.

YES, SIR.

HE STARTED IT.

SUPERMAN, WE PUT YOU IN YOUR RECOVERY SUIT FOR A REASON.

YOU'RE ***VERY*** INJURED, AND NO AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT IS GOING TO CHANGE THAT. YOUR HEALING ABILITIES ARE ***GONE.***

YOU ALMOST DIED.

WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST TIME. AND I HAVE MUCH BIGGER PRIORITIES RIGHT NOW...

WHERE IS CONNER? WHERE IS JON?

WHERE IS MY ***SON?***

I COULDN'T SAVE THEM...

I TRIED.

I TRIED TO GET ALL OF YOU, BUT THE AMAZO WAS TOO MUCH, AND I HAD TO MAKE A CALL...

I SAVED *YOU.*

I'M...

I'M REALLY SORRY, BOSS.

IT'S OKAY. I KNOW. I KNOW YOU DID YOUR BEST.

THANK YOU, MERCY.

I HATE BEING EMOTIONAL...I GUESS I'VE BEEN SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME WITH *YOU.*

WE'RE ALL FEELING THE BURN FROM THIS ATTACK, MERCY. NOTHING WRONG WITH LETTING IT SHOW.

YOUR EFFORTS HAVE HELPED US OUT A LOT, BUT WE NEED TO FIND AN EASIER WAY TO GET PEOPLE HERE...

SUPERMAN... I HAVE AN IDEA.

I THINK THERE IS A WAY FOR US TO GET THE UPPER HAND ON WALLER. AND IT INVOLVES...

MAGIC.

YES. SEE...

...THERE ARE PASSAGES MY FATHER USED TO CALL *DARK ROADS.*

THEY ARE INVISIBLE TO NEARLY EVERYONE.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE MAGICAL ABILITIES TO TRAVERSE THEM. NORMAL PEOPLE GET PULLED INTO THEM ALL THE TIME. YOU HEAR STORIES ABOUT HAUNTED STREETS, CROSSROADS...

THE POINT IS WE CAN USE THEM TO TRANSPORT PEOPLE. TO *OPERATE* IN THE *SHADOWS.*

FIRST WE NEED TO FIND THE *MAP OF MORDRU.*

THE DARK ROADS ARE *REALLY* DANGEROUS, BUT I THINK YOU AND I CAN WALK THEM TOGETHER AND NOT ONLY FIND HELP, BUT TAKE DOWN WALLER.

WHY *ME?*

THE DARK ROADS RESPOND TO CERTAIN THINGS.

DEATH IS A BIG ONE.

AND SEEING AS HOW YOU DIED ONCE BEFORE AND WERE KNOCKING ON DEATH'S DOOR NOT LONG AGO...

OKAY... SAY NO MORE.

BRUCE AND ***DIANA*** ARE IN THE MAIN ROOM...MEET ME THERE AND WE CAN TALK A BIGGER PLAN.

I OWE BRUCE A THANK-YOU FROM LONG AGO ANYWAY...

GOOD, I'LL SEE YOU THERE.

HOLD ON...

MERCY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BACK OUT THERE, SIR. I'M GLAD YOU AND ZATANNA MIGHT HAVE A PLAN, BUT THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE THAT NEED HELP.

AFTER WATCHING YOU THE LAST FEW MONTHS...I CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND AND DO ***NOTHING.*** EVEN IF MY NEW POWERS MAKE ME A TARGET...

MERCY, OF ***COURSE*** I SUPPORT YOU.

BUT... I HAVE A REQUEST. A MISSION.

TOP SECRET.

I NEED YOU TO FIND SOMEONE FOR ME...

METROPOLIS.

SUPERCORP NEVER GOT TO FIX THE DAMAGE DONE BY THE ***BRAINIAC ATTACK,*** AND THE BUILDING HAS BEEN CLEARED OUT...

AND WE'LL BE SAFE HERE, LENA?

I REALLY HOPE SO. THAT AMAZO TOOK MY SILVER BANSHEE POWERS, AND I BARELY ESCAPED.

WE'RE LUCKY IT GOT DISTRACTED BY LIVEWIRE AND PARASITE...

SUPERMAN, PAL, WHERE ARE YOU?

I HATE TO SAY THIS, JIMMY, BUT IF I WERE WALLER, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN OUT SUPERMAN ***FIRST.***

BUT I WAS ALSO THINKING THAT IF WE GOT MY DAD HERE AND IT JOGGED HIS MEMORIES, HE COULD HELP US...

ANYTHING?

I...I'M SORRY.

I HAVE NO MEMORY OF ANY OF THIS...OR BEING ***LEX LUTHOR.****

EVER SINCE THAT...BRAINIAC PERSON...I GET IMAGES OF THINGS, BUT... THAT'S IT.

I CAN'T HELP...

*LEX D.D SOMETHING NOBLE FOR A CHANGE AND GOT HIS MIND WIPED IN THE PROCESS LAST ISSUE. --PK

IT'S OKAY, DAD.

IT WAS WORTH A TRY.

:SIGH:

YOU OKAY, HONEY?

I...I'VE HAD MY POWERS FOR SO LONG I HAD NO IDEA WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE WITHOUT THEM.

IT FEELS LIKE I LOST A LIMB, JIMMY. A PIECE OF MYSELF IS MISSING.

LIKE I'M NOT ***ME*** RIGHT NOW...

YOU'RE STILL THE WOMAN I FELL IN LOVE WITH, SIOBHAN.

POWERS OR NO POWERS...

I THINK WE CAN TRY AND FIND A WAY TO GET OUT AN ENCRYPTED DISTRESS CALL AND GET SOME...

THAT'S WEIRD...ONE OF MY DAD'S ARMORS IS MISSING...

THEN WE BETTER ***FIND IT,*** GIRL.

IT BELONGS TO *US* NOW.

OLIVER QUEEN ASKED US TO COLLECT ANY TECH WE COULD FIND FROM SUPERCORP.

I REALLY DIDN'T EXPECT ANYONE TO BE STUPID ENOUGH TO STILL BE HERE.

BUT WE'VE STUMBLED ONTO A REAL PRIZE...

...***LEX LUTHOR.***

YOU'RE ON WALLER'S ***MOST WANTED*** LIST.

GRAB 'EM.

NO!

LEAVE HIM ALONE!

STOP!

GET AWAY FROM HER!

LOOK WHO'S FEELING BRAVE.

EVEN IN A WORLD WITHOUT POWERS, SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS STILL A LOSER.

BUT MAYBE YOU'LL FINALLY MATTER...AS A *MARTYR.*

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

ZAP

IF WALLER IS AFTER LEX...

...THEN WE HAVE TO KEEP HIM AS ***FAR AWAY*** FROM HER AS WE CAN.

ARMOR UP, PEOPLE.

WE'RE AT ***WAR.***

LOIS?!

THE *ABSOLUTE POWER* SAGA CONTINUES IN *ABSOLUTE POWER* #2 NEXT MONTH (TRUST US, DO *NOT* MISS THAT ONE) AND ACROSS THE DC UNIVERSE...AND BE SURE TO RETURN HERE FOR *SUPERMAN* #17 AS SUPERMAN AND ZATANNA WALK...THE DARK ROADS!

Superman #17 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #17 variant cover
by TONY S. DANIEL and TOMEU MOREY

THEN.

HOME TO SUPERBOY

KRASH

HOME TO SUPERBOY

RAD!

LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY FOUND THE BOY OF STEEL'S *WEAKNESS!*

SHOOT...MA IS GONNA BE MAD. SHE JUST MADE THIS CAPE...

I REALLY--

--REALLY--

--DISLIKE...

"...MAGIC."

NOW.

JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK'S HEADQUARTERS?

I'M SURPRISED WALLER HASN'T FOUND IT YET, RIGHT UNDER THE HALL OF JUSTICE...

SHE PROBABLY HAS, *SUPERMAN.*

THE MAGIC FORCES AT WORK DOWN HERE WERE DESIGNED SO THAT ANYONE THAT ISN'T A MAGIC USER OR HAS A GUIDE COULD GET LOST AND SPEND AN ETERNITY WALKING THESE HALLS...

WE'RE LUCKY *WONDER WOMAN* STILL HAD HER SHORTCUT FROM *THEMYSCIRA*...

AMANDA WALLER HAS WON.
A PLANETWIDE BLITZKRIEG HAS ROBBED THE WORLD'S METAHUMANS OF THEIR SUPERPOWERS AND RESOURCES. THOSE FEW WHO HAVE THUS FAR EVADED CAPTURE ARE FUGITIVES ON THE RUN, HUNTED MERCILESSLY BY TASK FORCE VII, A REGIMENT OF UNSTOPPABLE AMAZOS BUILT BY WALLER'S ALLIES, FAILSAFE AND THE BRAINIAC QUEEN. SUPERMAN AND ZATANNA NOW VENTURE TO THE DARK ROADS TO FIND A PATH TO THE MULTIVERSE, AND *REINFORCEMENTS*...

ABSOLUTE POWER

"MAGIC MISERY TOUR"

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON — SCRIPT
JAMAL CAMPBELL — ART AND COVER
ARIANA MAHER — LETTERS

TONY S. DANIEL & TOMEU MOREY, STJEPAN ŠEJIĆ, CHUMA HILL, GUILLEM MARCH — VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
JASON GEYER & ALEX SAVIUK — SUPER POWERS ACTION FIGURE VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
ELIZABETH TORQUE — SWIMSUIT VARIANT COVER ARTIST
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PAUL KAMINSKI — EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
SUPERBOY CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

"...AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE..."*

*THIS STORY TAKES PLACE AFTER *ABSOLUTE POWER* #2. CHECK OUT THAT ISSUE FOR THE FULL TRAGIC STORY! --PK

OKAY, NO ONE CAN FOLLOW US THROUGH NOW. WE'RE ON OUR OWN.

BUT THIS IS OUR BEST SHOT AT FINDING THE ***MAP OF MORDRU,*** SO WE CAN WALK THE ***DARK ROADS*** AND GET PRETTY MUCH ANYWHERE THERE IS A SHADOW.

INCLUDING THE ***MULTIVERSE...***

SUPERMAN?

MY SON.

WALLER...

KRAK

KRAK

KRAK

SUPERMAN, STOP!

SUPERMAN.

CLARK!

I'M... I'M SORRY, ***ZATANNA.***

I DON'T LIKE PEOPLE TO SEE ME LIKE THIS, BUT I HELD IT TOGETHER UNTIL WE LEFT THE ISLAND.

WALLER TURNED JON AGAINST ME...I HAD TO FIGHT ***MY SON.***

IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN YOURSELF.

WHEN MY FATHER DIED, I DIDN'T HANDLE IT VERY WELL, EITHER.

IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE...

HUMAN.

WE'LL SAVE JON.

AND STOP WALLER.

NOW C'MON. WE BETTER GET WALKING.

REMEMBER WHEN I SAID YOU NEED TO BE A MAGIC USER TO BE DOWN HERE?

MY POWERS ARE STILL GONE, TOO, SO...

WE NEED TO FOCUS TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T GET...

LOST?!

METROPOLIS.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU *LOST HIM?*

WE CAN'T HAVE SOMEONE LIKE ***LEX LUTHOR*** RUNNING AROUND UNATTENDED.

LUTHOR HAS A CREW WITH HIM. THAT REDHEAD KID FROM THE *DAILY PLANET*, HIS DAUGHTER, AND SILVER BANSHEE.

OUR RECORDS SHOW HER POWERS WERE REMOVED, BUT SHE ESCAPED...

SOMEONE CAME IN BLASTING AND TOOK US ALL OUT.

IT HAPPENED ***FAST.***

THEY HAD ARMOR ON, WALL.

WE DIDN'T SEE WHO IT WAS...

PROBABLY SOMEONE HUMAN.

...BUT IT WASN'T LEX?

INTERESTING... WHY WOULDN'T LEX DO IT HIMSELF?

AND WHO WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH TO NOT ONLY DEFEND LEX LUTHOR, BUT TO PUT ON HIS ARMOR AGAINST ME?

COAST IS CLEAR.

WE'RE SAFE...

FOR NOW, *LOIS.*

WELL, HOPEFULLY NONE OF WALLER'S FORCES THINK TO LOOK AT *LENA'S APARTMENT.*

MS. LANE?

CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE ARMOR TO ME?

YOU LOOK GREAT BY THE WAY, BUT *WHAT THE HECK?*

WALLER'S AI HAS TAKEN OVER THE *DAILY PLANET,* SO STAYING THERE WAS POINTLESS.

AND MY PLACE WAS BEING WATCHED. SO, I WENT TO ***SUPERCORP*** IN HOPES OF GETTING IN TOUCH WITH SUPERMAN OR ANYONE ELSE.

THERE WERE NEWS REPORTS THAT SUPERMAN WAS SHOT, BUT EVER SINCE WALLER'S AI TOOK OVER THE NEWS, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS ***REAL*** OR HER ***PROPAGANDA.***

I SAW YOU WERE UNDER ATTACK AND PUT THIS ARMOR ON.

AND YOU TOTALLY KICKED ASS, LOIS. THAT WAS ***INSANE.***

BUT WHY WAS PEACEMAKER AFTER LEX?

WALLER DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO MY DAD ON BRAINIAC'S SHIP, SIOBHAN.

SHE HAS NO IDEA YOU HAVE ***NO MEMORIES.***

THEY PROBABLY THINK YOU'RE STILL A THREAT TO HER...

I WISH I ***WAS*** THIS ***LEX*** WALLER KNEW.

THAT YOU ALL KNEW.

SO THAT I COULD ***HELP.***

BUT I'M ***NOT.***

HE SOUNDS LIKE HE WAS A GREAT MAN.

RIGHTTTTTT... ***ANYWAY.***

LOIS, WHERE ***IS*** EVERYONE?

WHERE'S MR. KENT?

CLARK IS SAFE.

I GOT HIM TO A SECURE LOCATION.

BUT LOIS, YOU NEED TO TAKE THAT SUPER-CORP ARMOR OFF. I WAS ABLE TO ***TRACK*** IT.

WHICH MEANS ***WALLER'S PEOPLE*** CAN, TOO.

MR... LUTHOR?

UH, DO WE KNOW EACH OTHER?

EXCUSE ME?

YOU TWO NEVER GOT TO TALK AFTER WE GOT BACK FROM BRAINIAC'S SHIP.

MY FATHER LOST HIS MEMORY.

WE CAN CATCH YOU UP LATER, ***MERCY.*** FIRST...

...WHERE ***IS*** SUPERMAN? I SAW A REPORT THAT HE WAS SHOT, BUT THAT WAS JUST MORE OF WALLER'S GARBAGE, RIGHT?

OH NO, LOIS...YOU DON'T KNOW?

"SUPERMAN DOESN'T HAVE HIS POWERS AND IS ON A DARK PATH TO GET THEM BACK..."

ZATANNA, EVER SINCE I GOT SHOT, I'VE HAD THESE... VISIONS...*IMAGES*...OF MY OWN PAST WITH MAGIC.

IT'S THE ***DARK ROADS.*** THEY MUST KNOW YOU WERE LOOKING FOR THEM, AND ARE REACHING OUT.

WE'RE NOT THERE NOW?

OH NO. THIS IS JUST THE PATH ***SWAMP THING*** USED TO USE FOR THE ***PARLIAMENT OF TREES.***

I HID SOMETHING THERE.

IT CAN HELP US GET WHERE WE NEED TO GO, BUT IT'S REALLY DANGEROUS.

HOPEFULLY SWAMP THING CAN HELP US...

FWOOSH

OH NO, SWAMP THING...?

WHERE ARE YOU?

WALLER'S TASK FORCE AGENTS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!

AND WE WILL!

AFTER WE STOP WALLER AND I GET MY MAGIC BACK!

BUT RIGHT NOW, THIS FIGHT IS ***POINT-LESS.***

THERE'S TOO MANY AND WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME!

THEN WHAT DO WE DO?!

WE HOPE THE FIRE HASN'T GOTTEN TO IT YET!

THERE IT IS!

IT'S ON FIRE!

I KNOW!

AHHHHH!

GOT IT!

A BOOK?

IT'S A SHORT STORY WRITTEN BY THE *QUEEN OF FABLES* ABOUT THE *OBLIVION BAR.*

IT'S A BACK-DOOR I SAVED AS A "BREAK IN CASE OF EMERGENCY."

THERE THEY ARE! *GET THEM!*

IT'S GOING TO *HURT.*

I'M GETTING USED TO THAT.

OKAY. TOGETHER.

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A BAR CALLED THE OBLIVION BAR.

Once upon a time there was a bar called
The Oblivion Bar.

A impossible place, Oblivion sits
An improbable place, Oblivion
An imaginative

ish for its knot
out of the branches from
swung.

HOLD ON TIGHTTTTTTTTTT!

WHHHOOOOOAAAAAA!

HEY, YOU HEARD WALLER'S ORDERS! ANY ARTIFACT NEEDS TO BE SENT TO THE *ARMORY!*

FWOOSH

TOO LATE!

TRY NOT TO STAND OUT, SUPERMAN.

TOO LATE.

WE ARE CLEARLY NOT WANTED HERE.

I DON'T CARE.

SOMEONE HERE MUST KNOW WHERE THE MAP OF MORDRU IS.

ZATANNA ZATARA?

OH MY GOD. IT *IS* YOU.

M-MY NAME IS ***ADAM.*** ADAM AESFORD. I'M A ***BIG*** FAN.

HI...

NORMALLY I'M A ***STAGE MAGICIAN.*** LIKE YOU. WELL, A SWORD DANCER, ASPIRING. BUT GIGS ARE HARD TO COME BY AT THE MOMENT, SO I TOOK A JOB HERE. IT PAYS OKAY.

UM...

...Y-YOU ***NEED*** TO GET OUT OF HERE.

WE WERE ALREADY ATTACKED ***ONCE,*** AND THE BAR WAS ABLE TO REPAIR ITSELF, BUT...*

THE PEOPLE HERE ARE HOPING TO AVOID G-GETTING INVOLVED IN WHAT IS GOING ON OUTSIDE, AND Y'KNOW...

TH-THEY SAY YOU'RE ***NOT*** A MAGIC USER RIGHT NOW, SO...

*IN *ABSOLUTE POWER: TASK FORCE VII* #3. --PAYIN' ATTENTION PK

MY MEMBERSHIP MIGHT BE EXPIRED, BUT I THINK I'VE EARNED A LITTLE...

COWARDS.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU.

COWARDS.

I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW THE WAYS OF MAGIC OR YOUR WORLD.

BUT THERE IS A ***WAR*** OUT THERE.

AND ***YOU*** STILL HAVE YOUR MAGIC ABILITIES.

YOU COULD BE OUT THERE ***HELPING*** US.

INSTEAD YOU STAY HERE AND ***DRINK.***

WHILE PEOPLE'S ***LIVES*** ARE AT RISK.

PEOPLE YOU CALL ***FRIENDS*** ARE IN DANGER...

...AND YOU ***HIDE.***

YOU'RE HERE, TOO. AIN'T YA?

I DON'T SEE *YOU* OUT THERE IN THE FIELD, SUPERMAN.

YOU BARGE IN HERE, BRINGING TROUBLE WITH YOU.

AND THEN YOU LECTURE *US?*

KID WARLOCK. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT YOU.

I BET YOU WERE.

I'M GUESSING IT'S *JUST* WARLOCK NOW?

NAH, I KEPT THE *KID.* GOTTA RESPECT THE BRANDING.

NOW LET'S GO, BIG MAN.

NOT UNTIL WE GET THE MAP OF MORDRU!

FINE, HAVE IT YOUR WAY. BEEN WAITING TO DO THIS SINCE I WAS LITTLE.

I KNOW YOUR WEAKNESS!

FIRE OF FAUST!

FWOOSH

YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR POWERS *AND* YOU'RE WEAK TO MAGIC!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF MAGIC.

NOTHING'S CHANGED. I'M VULNERABLE TO MAGIC NOW, JUST LIKE I WAS THEN!

CHAINS OF--

KRAK

COUGH... CHAINS... OF... COUGH...

GRAB

KRASH

ANYONE ELSE?

THE NEXT WORDS I HEAR BETTER BE...

"I "CAN "HELP."

WELL?

I CAN HELP.

LONG TIME, SUPERMAN.

LOVE THE NEW SUIT. IT'S VERY *NOW.*

ZEE, LOVELY AS THE FIRST DAY WE MET. YOU ALWAYS TAKE FISHNETS TO ANOTHER LEVEL.

THE MAP OF MORDRU CAME INTO MY POSSESSION QUITE SOME TIME AGO.

AND IT CAN BE YOURS.

AS LONG AS WE...

...CAN MAKE A *DEAL.*

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE AND IN THE PAGES OF *ABSOLUTE POWER* ALL SUMMER LONG! WHAT COULD SUPERMAN AND ZATANNA POSSIBLY TRADE TO *NERON* TO GET THE MAP? OH YEAH...

Superman #18 cover
by JAMAL CAMPBELL

Superman #18 variant cover
by GUILLEM MARCH

I...

HATE...

MAGIC!

UGH... WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?

SUPERMAN?!

DON'T WORRY, ZATANNA.

THE OBLIVION BAR.

AMANDA WALLER HAS WON.
A PLANETWIDE BLITZKRIEG HAS ROBBED THE WORLD'S META-HUMANS OF THEIR SUPERPOWERS AND RESOURCES. THOSE FEW WHO HAVE THUS FAR EVADED CAPTURE ARE FUGITIVES ON THE RUN, HUNTED MERCILESSLY BY TASK FORCE VII, A REGIMENT OF UNSTOPPABLE AMAZOS BUILT BY WALLER'S ALLIES, FAILSAFE AND THE BRAINIAC QUEEN.

IT APPEARS THE MAN OF STEEL IS HAVING SOME INTRUSIVE MAGICAL THOUGHTS.

WHICH MEANS THE ***MAP OF MORDU*** WANTS ***YOU*** JUST AS MUCH AS ***YOU*** WANT ***IT.***

SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A SEAT, HAVE A DRINK, AND MAKE A ***DEAL.***

ABSOLUTE POWER
"I HATE MAGIC"

JOSHUA WILLIAMSON — SCRIPT
JAMAL CAMPBELL — ART AND COVER
ARIANA MAHER — LETTERS
GUILLEM MARCH, SWEENEY BOO, AL BARRIONUEVO & ANNETTE KWOK, W. SCOTT FORBES — VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

NICOLA SCOTT & ANNETTE KWOK — ARTIST SPOTLIGHT
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
JILLIAN GRANT — ASSISTANT EDITOR
PAUL KAMINSKI — EDITOR

ABSOLUTELY NOT, ***NERON.***

WE DON'T--

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

WHAT? IT'S NON-ALCOHOLIC.

PROMISE.

OH, SOMEONE CAME TO PLAY. *LOVE IT.*

NOW C'MON. INDULGE ME. I KNOW ALL ABOUT AMANDA WALLER AND WHAT SHE HAS BEEN UP TO WITH HER POWER-STEALING AMAZOS.

YOU NEED THIS MAP SO YOU CAN SNEAK AROUND IN THE SHADOWS AND GET PAST HER DEFENSES...

SO, WHAT CAN YOU *GIVE* ME FOR IT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, NERON?

WE'RE *NOT* SELLING OUR SOULS.

PLEASE. YOUR SOUL IS ONE OF THE PUREST I'VE EVER SEEN, SUPERMAN.

BUT YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO DIE, SO IT'S POINTLESS.

I'VE DIED.

AND YET HERE YOU SIT. ALIVE AND WELL.

AND AS FOR *YOU,* FISHNETS.

AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE, THE DARK MAGIC YOU'VE CONJURED, AND THE COMPANY YOU KEEP...YOUR SOUL IS PRACTICALLY MINE ALREADY.

NO NO NO, I WANT SOMETHING SO MUCH MORE INTERESTING...

...SOMETHING *PRECIOUS.*

I WANT YOU TO *LIE.*

EXCUSE ME?

YOU. SUPERMAN.

THE LIVING EMBODIMENT OF ALL THAT IS GOOD IN THE WORLD.

A MAN OF ***TRUTH,*** CORRECT?

I WILL GIVE YOU THIS MAP YOU SO DESPERATELY NEED, AND IN EXCHANGE, YOU'LL BETRAY ***YOURSELF.***

YOU'LL ***LIE*** FOR ME.

NERON...

YOU'VE GOT A DEAL.

I'LL LIE FOR YOU.

SUPERMAN, NO.

IT'S OKAY, ZATANNA.

LET'S GO.

HA. YOU THINK YOU'RE CLEVER, SUPERMAN.

BUT I ALSO KNOW YOUR SECRET. ABOUT THE ***ANGER*** YOU HIDE.

THIS IS NOT OVER.

I KNOW.

WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?!

NERON ASKED ME TO LIE...

...SO I DID.

NOW SHOW ME HOW WE CAN USE THIS MAP...

THE ARCTIC.

"PEOPLE ARE COUNTING ON US

I COULD GET USED TO THIS.

DON'T. THAT ARMOR WAS VERY EXPERIMENTAL, LOIS. LEX STARTED TO WORK ON IT BEFORE HE WAS ARRESTED, AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT WAS FOR...

YOU AND LEX WERE... FRIENDS?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I WISH YOU HAD JUST STAYED WITH LENA AT HER PLACE... IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SAFER FOR YOU, SIR.

EVEN WITH YOUR MEMORY LOSS, I DON'T THINK SUPERMAN IS GOING TO BE VERY EXCITED ABOUT ME TAKING YOU TO THE FORTRESS OF--

OH NO, LOOK!

I KNOW IT WAS *HIS.*

IT WAS HIS FORTRESS. HIS HOME AWAY FROM HOME.

BUT IT MEANT SOMETHING TO *ME,* TOO. WE WOULD GO HERE TOGETHER WHEN WE WANTED IT TO BE JUST THE TWO OF US...

I...I'M SORRY, LOIS.

WHAT HAPPENED? YOU TOLD ME THEY WERE HERE...

THEY WERE.

THERE WAS CLEARLY A MASSIVE FIGHT...I'M PICKING UP SOME WEIRD READINGS HERE...*BRAINIAC* TECHNOLOGY...

BRAINIAC? BUT BRAINIAC IS *GONE...*

WHERE *ARE* THEY, MERCY?

WHERE IS *SUPERMAN?*

THE DARK ROADS.

WHERE IS THE MAP TAKING US, ZATANNA?

OLIVER QUEEN SAID WALLER CUT US OFF FROM THE *MULTIVERSE,* RIGHT?

BUT THE MULTIVERSE HAS *SHADOWS,* TOO.

WALLER MIGHT HAVE STOLEN ALL OUR POWERS, *BUT* THERE IS A WHOLE MULTIVERSE OF HEROES WE CAN CALL IN AS BACKUP.

SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD TURN THE TIDE OF THIS WAR IN AN INSTANT.

IT TAKES A MOMENT TO TAME THE MAP. TO GET IT TO TAKE YOU WHERE YOU WANT TO GO...

...TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART...

THIS IS WHY I HATE MAGIC.

THE RULES SEEM TO ALWAYS CHANGE.

YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T *CONTROL* IT.

IT'S NOT THAT.

IT JUST FEELS LIKE A POWER THAT COMES WITH TOO MUCH OF A...

UGH...

...COMES WITH WHAT...?

A COST?

YOU'RE WASTING AWAY... ARE THE DARK ROADS DOING THIS?

IT'S THE MAP.

IT PULLS FROM A PERSON'S MAGIC...BUT SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHT NOW, IT'S PULLING FROM MY VERY *LIFE.*

YOU NEVER TOLD ME THE MAP COULD DO THIS. IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU--

LET ME *WHAT?*

I NEED MY MAGIC *BACK,* CLARK. NO MATTER THE SACRIFICE. *I NEED IT.*

WE'LL GET OUR POWERS BACK... WE *WILL.* BUT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

...YOU'RE SO MUCH *MORE* THAN MAGIC, ZATANNA.

AM I?

YOU'RE SUPERMAN.

AND CLARK KENT.

HELL, YOU'RE EVEN KAL-EL.

ZATANNA ISN'T A CODE NAME.

IT'S MY NAME.

THIS THING YOU SAY YOU HATE IS MY EVERYTHING.

I BARELY HAVE FRIENDS. AND THE CLOSEST I HAVE TO A RELATIONSHIP IS A CHAIN-SMOKING BRIT WHO SOLD HIS SOUL TO NOT ONE, BUT THREE DEMONS.

YOU MIGHT HAVE A LIFE OUTSIDE OF YOUR COSTUME, SUPERMAN...

...BUT WALLER DIDN'T JUST TAKE MY POWERS-- SHE TOOK MY LIFE.

NOW LET'S GO.

THE MAP LEADS US THIS WAY...

"...TO THE HOUSE OF HEROES."

WE HAVEN'T BEEN HERE SINCE...

THE LAST TIME WE "DIED"...?

I WAS GOING TO SAY SINCE *PARIAH* ATTACKED US.*

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

*IN *JUSTICE LEAGUE* #75 --PK

WALLER SENT ONE OF HER FANCY AMAZOS.

TOOK MY POWERS AND STRANDED ME HERE.

DR. LIGHT? HOW DID YOU--

AFTER THE MULTIVERSE BECAME INFINITE AGAIN, I WAS EXPLORING IT...*

BUT WALLER DID SOMETHING...

*AS IF YOU SKIPPED *DARK CRISIS* --PK (IS KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU)

"SHE BLOCKED IT OFF, BUT THAT WAS JUST THE START...SHE'S UP TO SOMETHING.

"SOMETHING *BAD.*

I THINK IT'S HER OWN BRIDGE...HER OWN *ARMY* TO FINISH THE JOB.

SHE'S BEEN ONE STEP AHEAD OF US THIS WHOLE TIME.

WHAT IS BLOCKING US OFF FROM THE MULTIVERSE?

SHE SENT AN AGENT TO LIVE IN THE BLEED. IT LAY IN WAIT FOR THE LAST YEAR, HELPING HER STOP TRAVEL BETWEEN WORLDS.

IF IT KNOWS WE ARE HERE, IT WILL KILL US.

WE NEED TO GO *NOW.*

WHAT?

WHAT IS IT? WHAT COULD POSSIBLY LIVE IN THE BLEED?

SHE'S TALKING ABOUT ME.

RUN.

UH...WHAT THE HELL IS *THAT?*

I KNOW IT.

SORT OF.

"YEARS AGO, BATMAN AND I WERE ABLE TO COMBINE USING HAL JORDAN'S RING. IT WAS A ONE-TIME-ONLY TRICK.*

"OR SO I THOUGHT. BUT IF OTHERS WERE ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT...

*IN *BATMAN/SUPERMAN: WORLD'S FINEST* #4! IT'S A TOY NOW! --PK

YOU CAN CALL ME KONFUSION!

IT'S FROM EARTH-3!

THE GOOD DOCTOR TELLS THE TRUTH.

YOU SEE, EVERYTHING IN *YOUR* WORLD CREATES AN OPPOSITE IN *OURS*. IT'S THE WAY OF THE MULTIVERSE.

BUT... YOU'RE NOT... *ULTRAMAN*...OR *OWLMAN*...?

NO, I'M REALLY--

KRA-KK-

BOOM

WHAT NOW?!

IT'S THE HOUSE OF HEROES...

IT'S CRASHING!

BOOM

DON'T WORRY. WALLER LEFT ORDERS FOR YOU TO COME WITH--

AH!

TRSH

THE DAMAGE WALLER CAUSED TO THE BLEED IS TAKING THE HOUSE OF HEROES DOWN.

AND IF WE DON'T GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE ***NOW,*** WE'RE GOING TO BE TRAPPED IN THE WRECKAGE!

WE CAN'T HAVE KONFUSION FOLLOW US. BUT IF WE USE THE SHADOWS TO ESCAPE, WE CAN TRAP IT HERE, TOO.

I CAN'T... DO IT.

I CAN'T... THE MAP HAS ALREADY TAKEN TOO MUCH FROM ME...

THEN WE DO IT TOGETHER.

BUT THE MAGIC...?

IF THERE WAS EVER A TIME TO FACE MY FEARS, IT'S *NOW.*

BESIDES...THE MAP HAS BEEN CALLING ME EVER SINCE WE STARTED THIS JOURNEY, REMEMBER?

IT WANTS ME.

BUT I CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT *YOU,* ZATANNA.

IT'S WORKING...

IT WILL TAKE US TO WHERE *YOUR* HEART WANTS TO GO...

THEN WE BETTER GO *NOW!*

TZZZZZZZZ-

NO!

KABOOM

ARE YOU SURE, MERCY?

I'VE NEVER FLOWN A JET LIKE THIS BEFORE.

AFTER ALL THE ADVENTURES YOU'VE HAD, I'M SURE YOU'LL DO FINE. JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THE AUTOPILOT AND IT WILL GET YOU BACK TO YOUR PLACE.

AND KEEP AN EYE ON LEX FOR ME, PLEASE?

WE'LL KEEP HIM OUT OF TROUBLE.

THE SUIT IS RUNNING LOW ON JUICE...

...BUT I THINK I PICKED UP A SIGNAL.

FROM SUPERMAN?

NO...FROM WALLER.

SHE'S DIRECTING ALL HER AMAZOS AND FORCES TO RETURN TO ***GAMORRA***. SHE SUSPECTS THE HEROES ARE COMING TO GET HER...

MERCY...OUR SHADOWS...?

WHAT THE HELL?

THEY'RE GETTING *BIGGER.*

I NEED TO GET MY ARMOR BACK ON!

WALLER. SHE MUST HAVE FOUND US.

HOLD ON.

I'D KNOW THAT SHADOW ANYWHERE.

I LOVE MAGIC.

WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE, ZATANNA?

WALLER SENT JON KENT AND THE BRAINIAC QUEEN AFTER US.

BUT NOW...WE HAVE AN EDGE SHE DOESN'T HAVE.

HERE'S THE PLAN. ZATANNA, DR. LIGHT, AND I ARE GOING TO USE THE DARK ROADS TO FIND ***BATMAN*** AND ***WONDER WOMAN.***

LOIS AND MERCY ARE GOING BACK TO ***METROPOLIS.***

WALLER HAS BEEN USING A DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE HEROES, BUT WHEN SHE IS DISTRACTED BY THE FIGHT, THE *DAILY PLANET* CAN START TO REPORT ON WHAT SHE HAS BEEN UP TO.

USE THE TRUTH AGAINST HER.

ZATANNA, I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT I SAID BEFORE... I DON'T HATE MAGIC. I JUST...

I GET IT... SOMETIMES I HATE IT, TOO.

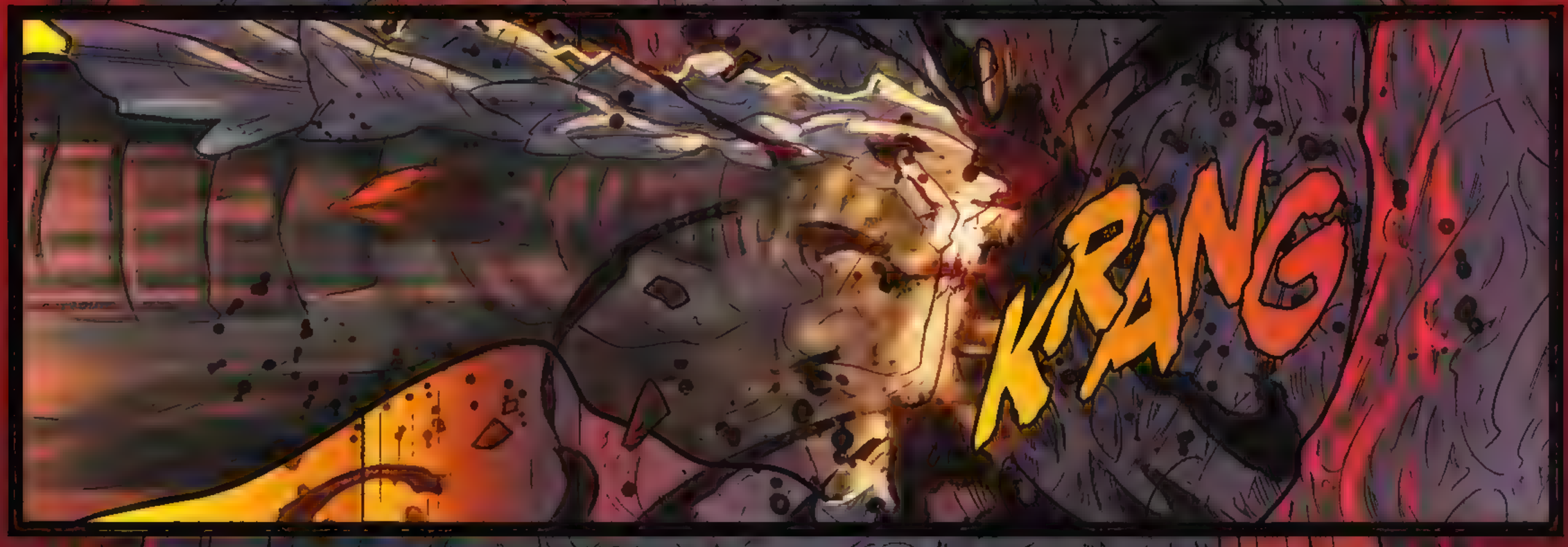
BUT I HATE ***WALLER*** MORE. AND I'LL USE THAT HATE TO FUEL THE ***MAP.***

CAN WE GET A RIDE?

TO BE CONTINUED IN *ABSOLUTE POWER* #4! AND *SUPERWOMAN SPECIAL* IN DECEMBER...

BUT WAIT... THERE'S MORE...

KRANG!


KRANG!

KA-KRASH!

BRAAAG GHHH
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH AS
SUPERMAN GOES ALL IN...AGAINST
DOOMSDAY!

Knight Terrors: Superman #1 cover
by GLEB MELNIKOV

Knight Terrors: Superman #1 variant cover
by CHRISTIAN WARD

THE HALL OF JUSTICE.

"MERCY, MEET ME AT SUPERCORP

"DR. DESTINY'S BODY WAS FOUND IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE. DEADMAN WARNED WONDER WOMAN, BATMAN, AND MYSELF THAT IT WAS A DEADLY NIGHTMARE CONSTRUCT, BUT MANIFEST IN THE ***REAL WORLD***.

WONDER WOMAN IS RESEARCHING ANY MAGIC CONNECTIONS WITH ZATANNA, WHILE BATMAN AND DEADMAN GO TO ARKHAM TOWER.

SO I WANT ***SUPERCORP*** TO GATHER UP OUR SUPERNATURAL ONEIROLOGISTS AND RUN SOME TESTS. SEE IF ANYTHING UNUSUAL IS UP WITH THE BARRIERS BETWEEN THE DREAM WORLD AND ***OURS***.

MERCY, DO YOU HEAR ME?

MERCY?

DREAMS DO COME TRUE.

WHAT *IS* THAT...?

MAN OF SCREAMS!

WRITER: JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
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COLORIST: NATHAN FAIRBAIRN
LETTERER: ARIANA MAHER
COVER ARTIST: GLEB MELNIKOV
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS: CHRISTIAN WARD, FRANCESCO MATTINA
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WHAT...?

A MYSTERIOUS AND DEADLY NEW VILLAIN NAMED INSOMNIA HAS STRUCK! THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS BEEN FORCED INTO ETERNAL SLUMBER, INCLUDING ALL THE HEROES AND VILLAINS, AS INSOMNIA SEARCHES THEIR DREAMS FOR THE NIGHTMARE STONE. CAN THE HEROES SURVIVE BEING TRAPPED WITHIN THEIR DARKEST FEARS?

SMALLVILLE!

...LOIS...?

GET UP, HONEY. YOU GOTTA FINISH THAT STORY.

IF YOU DON'T HIT THAT DEADLINE, MR. WHITE IS GOING TO *KILL YOU.*

YEAH, MR. KENT.

JIM, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHEN DID I GET TO THE *PLANET?*

WHAT STORY?

NOTHING TO FRET ABOUT, KENT.

NO ONE IS GOING TO NEED TO TELL ANOTHER STORY EVER AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MR. WHITE?

FEAST YOUR EYES ON OUR *LAST* HEADLINE...

WE DID IT.

IT'S OVER.

DAILY PLANET

WHOLE WORLD SAVED FOREVER!

NO MORE DANGERS EVER AGAIN.

HOW?

BECAUSE YOU FINALLY LISTENED TO *ME*, KENT.

YOU *WORKED* WITH ME.

AND THE WORLD FOLLOWED. THEY SAW THAT I COULD HELP EVERYONE.

NOW WE'RE ALL SAFE.

LEX?

BUT YOU WERE...

NO. NONE OF THIS IS REAL.

SMALLVILLE?

IT'S NOT MONGUL'S BLACK MERCY... THIS IS DIFFERENT.

DR. DESTINY... WAS DEAD AT THE HALL OF JUSTICE... *DREAMS...*

SHOOT.

I WAS HOPING WE'D HAVE MORE TIME BEFORE YOU'D FIGURE IT ALL OUT.

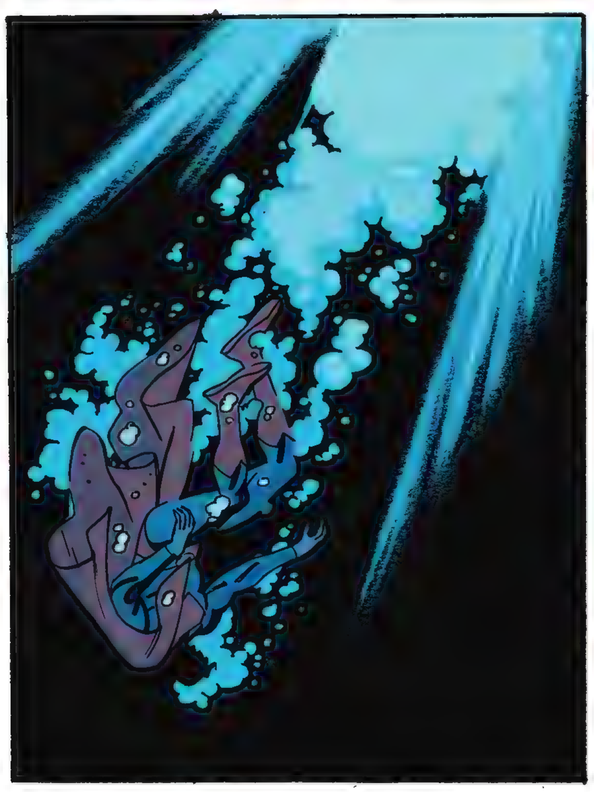
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

SPLASH

WHOOWHOOWHOOWH

WHAT IS THAT...?

CLARK...



DREAM OR NO DREAM...

SPARK

...THIS IS A JOB FOR...

SUPERMAN...?

YOU...CAN'T SAVE...

...US... ALL...

LOIS!

IT'S JUST A DREAM.

IT'S JUST A DREAM.

IT'S JUST A *DREAM.*

ACTUALLY...

IT'S A *NIGHTMARE,* SUPERMAN.

BUT I CAN HELP YOU WAKE UP.

JUST TELL ME WHERE THE *NIGHTMARE STONE* IS.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

IF THIS IS JUST A DREAM, WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO *EMOTIONAL?*

I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT ME.

ARE MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY ALSO TRAPPED IN THIS... *NIGHTMARE?*

LET'S FIND OUT!

KRTSCH

CRASH!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR NIGHTMARE STONE EVEN IS...LET ALONE WHERE IT IS.
NOW TELL ME IF...

WH-
WHERE--?

...THE END OF TIME, SUPERMAN...

THIS IS THE TRUE REASON YOU ARE THE *MAN OF TOMORROW.*

BECAUSE IN THE FUTURE, YOU ARE THE LAST MAN STANDING.

YOU WILL OUTLIVE EVERYONE YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN.

EVERYONE YOU HAVE EVER LOVED.

YOU WILL FORGET THEM!

THIS IS ANOTHER FORM YOU'RE TAKING TO SCARE ME?

I AM YOU.

CREATED BY YOUR NIGHTMARES.

I AM WHAT YOU KEEP HIDDEN BEHIND YOUR SMILES AND VALUES.

I AM THE MAN OF *SCREAMS.*

THIS IS HARDLY THE ***FIRST TIME*** SOMEONE HAS TRIED TO USE MY FEARS AGAINST ME...

THEN LET'S GO DEEPER INTO YOUR NIGHTMARE AND SEE WHAT WE FIND...

KRYPTON?

WITNESS.

YOUR ESCAPE.

BOOM

WHOOOSSSHHHH

LOOK.

INNOCENT.

TOTALLY UNAWARE OF YOUR TRUE ROLE IN THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU ARE NOT YOUR ADOPTED WORLD'S SAVIOR.

YOU ARE A BULLET.

FIRED IN EARTH'S DIRECTION.

AH!

YOU NEVER ESCAPED KRYPTON'S DEATH.

IT FOLLOWED YOU!

YOUR FUTURE ONLY HAS TWO PATHS, KAL-EL.

"DEVASTATION.

OR SOLITUDE.

GOT YA'!

WHOOSH

NO MATTER WHAT, IN THE END YOU WILL BE...

...ALONE

NO...

KAL?!

KAL?! HEY!

KARA?

SWK

C'MON...

TRSH!

KARA... ARE YOU *REAL?*

ARE *YOU?* YOU GOING SPACE FARMING?

SOMEONE HAS *TRAPPED* US ALL INSIDE OUR *NIGHTMARES.*

IF YOU AND I ARE HERE, THAT MEANS OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE TOO. WE NEED TO FIND THEM...

...AND THEN FIND *INSOMNIA* AND PUT A STOP TO THIS.

I WAS TRAPPED INSIDE MY NIGHTMARES... BUT IT WAS TOO MUCH.

SO I STARTED TO PUNCH MY WAY OUT...AND MADE IT INTO YOURS...

BUT I HAD TO JUST KEEP *RUNNING...*

FROM WHAT?

THEM.

JUST REMEMBER, COUSIN.
IT'S ALL...

...A DREAM...

SUPERMAN'S NOT WAKING UP.

SAME WITH EVERYONE ELSE ON THIS BEACH.

WHAT ARE THESE LANDLUBBERS UP TO NOW?

DON'T USE PIRATE TALK, DARLING. IT'S TACKY.

THE REAL QUESTION IS: WHY ARE ***WE*** UNAFFECTED?

WE WILL UNCOVER THE TRUTH, MY LOVE.

I RULE OVER 80 PERCENT OF THIS WORLD.

WHO BETTER THAN ITS *KING* TO SAVE IT?

Next Time:

AQUAMAN AND FAMILY SAVE THE WORLD!

Knight Terrors: Superman #2 cover
by GLEB MELNIKOV

Knight Terrors: Superman #2 variant cover
by JON BOGDANOVE and HI-FI

BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION OF KRYPTON.
IN THE RUINS OF XAN.

FATHER, I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO VISIT UNCLE JOR-EL?

YOU PASSED YOUR EXAMS WITH EASE, AND I THOUGHT A REWARD WOULD BE IN ORDER.

SO A TRIP TO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?

NOT NOWHERE, KARA.

TO OUR HISTORY.

OUR PAST IS CRUCIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT AND OUR FUTURE.

SPT

DAD?!

WHAT...

WAIT, THIS...

THIS *ISN'T* WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.

AR-GHH!!

MY DAD DIDN'T DIE UNTIL MUCH LATER.

BOOM-CRUNCH

THIS IS A *DREAM.*

YEAH.

KRYPTON'S RED SUN WOULDN'T ALLOW ME TO FLY.

I WAS MEETING *LOIS* AT THE *DAILY PLANET* BEFORE MOVIE NIGHT. SHE PICKED A HORROR MOVIE *AGAIN.*

TRC!

WHY COULDN'T THIS JUST BE A NICE DREAM ABOUT *CATS?*

RAAGHHH

"I FOUGHT THEM FOR WHAT FELT LIKE DAYS, OVER AND OVER AGAIN. THEY NEVER STOPPED.

"I FINALLY THOUGHT THE ONLY WAY TO ESCAPE THEM WAS TO ESCAPE MY DREAMS..."

...SO, I BROKE INTO YOURS!

MAID OF MAYHEM!

A MYSTERIOUS AND DEADLY NEW VILLAIN NAMED INSOMNIA HAS STRUCK! THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS BEEN FORCED INTO ETERNAL SLUMBER, INCLUDING ALL THE HEROES AND VILLAINS, AS INSOMNIA SEARCHES THEIR DREAMS FOR THE NIGHTMARE STONE. CAN THE HEROES SURVIVE BEING TRAPPED WITHIN THEIR DARKEST FEARS?

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OKAY, MY STORY TIME IS OVER.

YOUR TURN, CUZ!

A VILLAIN NAMED INSOMNIA IS SEARCHING OUR NIGHTMARES FOR SOMETHING CALLED THE ***NIGHTMARE STONE.***

IS ***EVERYONE*** TRAPPED IN THEIR NIGHTMARES?

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT I HAVE FAITH...

"...SOMEONE IS HELPING KEEP THE WAKING WORLD SAFE!"

NO OTHER HEROES ARE ANSWERING OUR DISTRESS CALLS, *MERA.* WHATEVER HAPPENED HIT EVERYONE.

BUT US, MY LOVE.

STATUS REPORT. OPERATION: HEADS ABOVE WATER...

...*REPORT IN.*

PACIFIC COAST IS CLEAR. JUST A LOT OF PEOPLE SLEEPING.

SAME HERE. BUT NO SIGNS OF WHAT CAUSED THIS.

UH, YEAH. NOTHING UP HERE...

AND UH, THANKS AGAIN FOR INCLUDING ME. I DIDN'T--

Z Z Z Z Z

DUDE, DRENCHED. SAVE IT FOR LATER.

EVERYONE HERE IS GOOD. THEY ARE JUST... *ASLEEP...*

"OUR FAMILY AND FORCES ARE SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE GLOBE. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT WE MOBILIZED AND MADE SURE THE WORLD WAS SECURE AS BEST WE COULD. AND FOR WHAT?"

"THOSE WHO ARE OFTEN OUR ENEMY?

"ARE WE GOING TO DISCUSS THAT THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THEIR OWN FAULT?

"THEY FINALLY PUSHED NATURE TOO FAR AND IT HAS PUSHED BACK?"

"IT'S NOT THAT, MY DEAR. THE FACT THAT WE WERE NOT IMPACTED IS KEY..."

"WHY ARE ***WE*** GOING TO SUPERCORP AND NOT OUR OWN SCIENTISTS IN ***ATLANTIS?***"

WE NEED TO GET SUPERMAN ON HIS HOME TURF. I BELIEVE IT IS OUR BEST CHANCE AT FINDING ANSWERS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY SUPERMAN AGREED TO WORK WITH ***LEX LUTHOR.*** HE MUST KNOW THAT LEX IS UP TO SOMETHING...

SUPERMAN ALWAYS HAD THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD ON HIS SHOULDERS, MERA.

HE TAKES ON EVERY CHALLENGE, NO MATTER HOW GREAT. MAYBE TO A FAULT.

PERHAPS HE SEES LEX AND SUPERCORP AS A WEIGHT ONLY HE COULD TAKE ON.

HEAVY IS THE HEAD THAT WEARS THE CROWN, ARTHUR.

YOU WOULD KNOW.

FLATTERER.

SPEAKING OF...HERE IS WHAT WE KNOW.

SUPERCORP'S TECHNOLOGY IS... ADEQUATE.

IF YOU LOOK HERE, IT APPEARS TO BE A MIX OF SCIENCE AND SUPERNATURAL THAT IS KEEPING SUPERMAN IN A STATE OF SLEEP.

WHY ARE ***WE*** NOT AFFECTED?

OUR INNER EARS HAVE EVOLVED FOR THE INTENSE ***PRESSURE*** OF LIVING ***UNDERWATER.***

IT'S BUILT UP A KIND OF NATURAL DEFENSE THAT ALLOWS US TO COMMUNICATE IN THE SEA. WE CAN HEAR EACH OTHER. BUT THAT SAME ABILITY BLOCKED WHATEVER HAPPENED.

IF I CAN TRIGGER THE SAME KIND OF AUDITORY BLOCK IN SUPERMAN, I CAN POSSIBLY WAKE HIM UP.

THEN WE CAN WAKE UP THE ***WORLD.***

IT'S TOO LATE.

MASTER INSOMNIA COMMANDED THAT I FIND ALL WHO ARE STILL AWAKE.

BUT IF HIS POWERS DON'T WORK ON YOU...

...I'LL DROWN YOU IN *BLOOD.*

MERA, CONTINUE YOUR WORK TO WAKE OUR MAN OF STEEL...

I'LL DEAL WITH OUR NEW GUEST!

KA-CHING

METROPOLIS.
THE WAKING WORLD.

DAILY PLANET
SNAKE OIL SALESMAN
RUN OUT OF TOWN
BY LOCAL HERO!

HEY, CUZ...

WHY DO YOU...

...DREAM ABOUT...

...WESTERNS?

I DON'T. NOT NORMALLY.

A FEW WEEKS BACK I ENCOUNTERED SOMEONE...A ***GHOST*** WHO TOLD ME METROPOLIS IS ***HAUNTED.***

THIS...***MARILYN MOONLIGHT*** SHOWED ME SOMETHING. A VISION OF METROPOLIS'S PAST. IT'S BEEN...ON MY MIND.

IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF?

THAT YOU'VE LIVED IN METROPOLIS FOR SO LONG BUT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ***EVERYTHING*** ABOUT IT?

HARDWARE

I'M NOT AFRAID OF THE UNKNOWN. IT PAYS TO BE CURIOUS AND EXCITED BY WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

DRUGS

THAT IS PART OF WHY I BECAME AN INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST.

BUT ***NIGHTMARES*** DON'T HAVE TO BE ***RATIONAL.***

KENT

BEFORE, I WAS SHOWN IMAGES OF THE WORLD ENDING. REMINDED THAT MAYBE I WON'T ALWAYS BE ABLE TO HELP.

JEEZ.

HOW ABOUT YOU? ANY MEANING BEHIND YOU BEING CHASED BY DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF YOURSELF?

POSSIBLY...

YOU WERE JUST A BABY WHEN YOU LEFT KRYPTON. BUT I HAD A WHOLE LIFE THERE.

AND SOMETIMES I THINK I'M STILL TRYING TO BUILD A NEW ONE HERE. LIKE YOU HAVE.

DAILY

BUT I ***KNOW*** WHO I AM.

GET BACK.

I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU!

ZZZT

YOU HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT A MONSTER MADE FROM... PAPER?

THE BLANK PAGE.

I KILLED A MONSTER DEADLINE BEFORE YOU GOT HERE.

ANYONE WANT TO TELL ME WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

BOOM

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBL

CLARK?!

MY OWN NIGHTMARES ARE INVADING YOURS! THEY MUST HAVE FOLLOWED US...

WHAT *ELSE* IS FOLLOWING US?!

KRSH

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE WHAT IS INSIDE OF YOU.

THE END OF THE WORLD IS A PIECE OF YOU. A PIECE OF YOUR PAST AND YOUR FUTURE.

IT IS INEVITABLE.

NO AMOUNT OF ***POWER*** CAN STOP WHAT YOU KNOW WILL COME.

THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN YOU WILL ***NOT*** BE ABLE TO SAVE THIS WORLD...

THAT DAY WITH MY DAD AT THE DIG. I HAD A DREAM ABOUT IT FOR A REASON. I THINK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME...BUT HE SAID MORE THAN YOU SHOWED ME...

OUR PAST IS CRUCIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE PRESENT ***AND*** OUR FUTURE.

BUT YOU CAN'T LET IT ***CONTROL*** YOU...

SUPERMAN WHAT IS...?

HE CALLS HIMSELF THE ***SUPER-REAPER.***

YOU'RE RIGHT, AND YOU REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT OUR PAST.

WE NEED TO STOP RUNNING FROM IT!

FLASH

IT'S TIME I FINISHED THIS NIGHTMARE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

WHEN WILL YOU REALIZE THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE DIED ON KRYPTON?!

I DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. I JUST MAKE SURE I TAKE CARE OF...

TODAY!

NICE, CUZ.
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME OF WHAT MATTERS, KARA.
I'M SICK OF THIS *MAZE* INSOMNIA HAS US IN. WE NEED TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS.
WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS? WHERE ARE THEY?
WE'LL FIND THEM... I KNOW WE WILL...
IT'S WORKING.

SUPERMAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

WAKE UP.

DROWN IN BLOOD, AQUAMAN!

YOU THINK THIS IS THE *FIRST TIME* I'VE HAD TO SWIM IN *BLOOD?*

BOOM

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, DO YOU?

BLOOD NEVER QUITS.

BLOOD IS *FOREVER.*

BLOOD.

FREEZES.

BOOSH

GROSSEST POPSICLE I'VE EVER SEEN.

AQUAMAN, WHAT HAPPENED?

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TELL ME THE SAME THING.

I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING BUT FIRST I NEED TO--

SMALLVILLE?

LOIS?

HEY, WE'RE OKAY!

KARA'S GETTING US HOME TO THE KIDS!

FIND INSOMNIA AND *GET 'EM.*

AQUAMAN, AQUAWOMAN. WE HAVE A *NEW* ENEMY. ONE WHO CAN DRAG US INTO OUR NIGHTMARES...

PRETTY BIG SWING FOR A NEWBIE.

IF HE KNOCKED OUT THE WORLD, THERE IS NO TELLING THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGE THAT HAS BEEN--

IT'S TAKEN CARE OF.

WHAT?

THE WORLD IS SECURE. WE KEPT AS MANY PEOPLE SAFE AS WE COULD.

YOU OWE US.

I THINK WHAT MY LOVELY QUEEN MEANS IS...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOULDER EVERYTHING *ALONE,* MY FRIEND.

AQUAMAN... ARTHUR...

THANK YOU.

WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP THE SURFACE WORLD SAFE.

AND NOW THAT WE KNOW HOW TO WAKE EVERYONE UP, WE CAN GET TO WORK.

I NEED TO RETURN TO WHERE THIS ALL STARTED...

"...THE HALL OF JUSTICE!"

ZZT

TO BE CONTINUED IN KNIGHT TERRORS AND SUPERMAN: HOUSE OF BRAINIAC ON SALE NOW!

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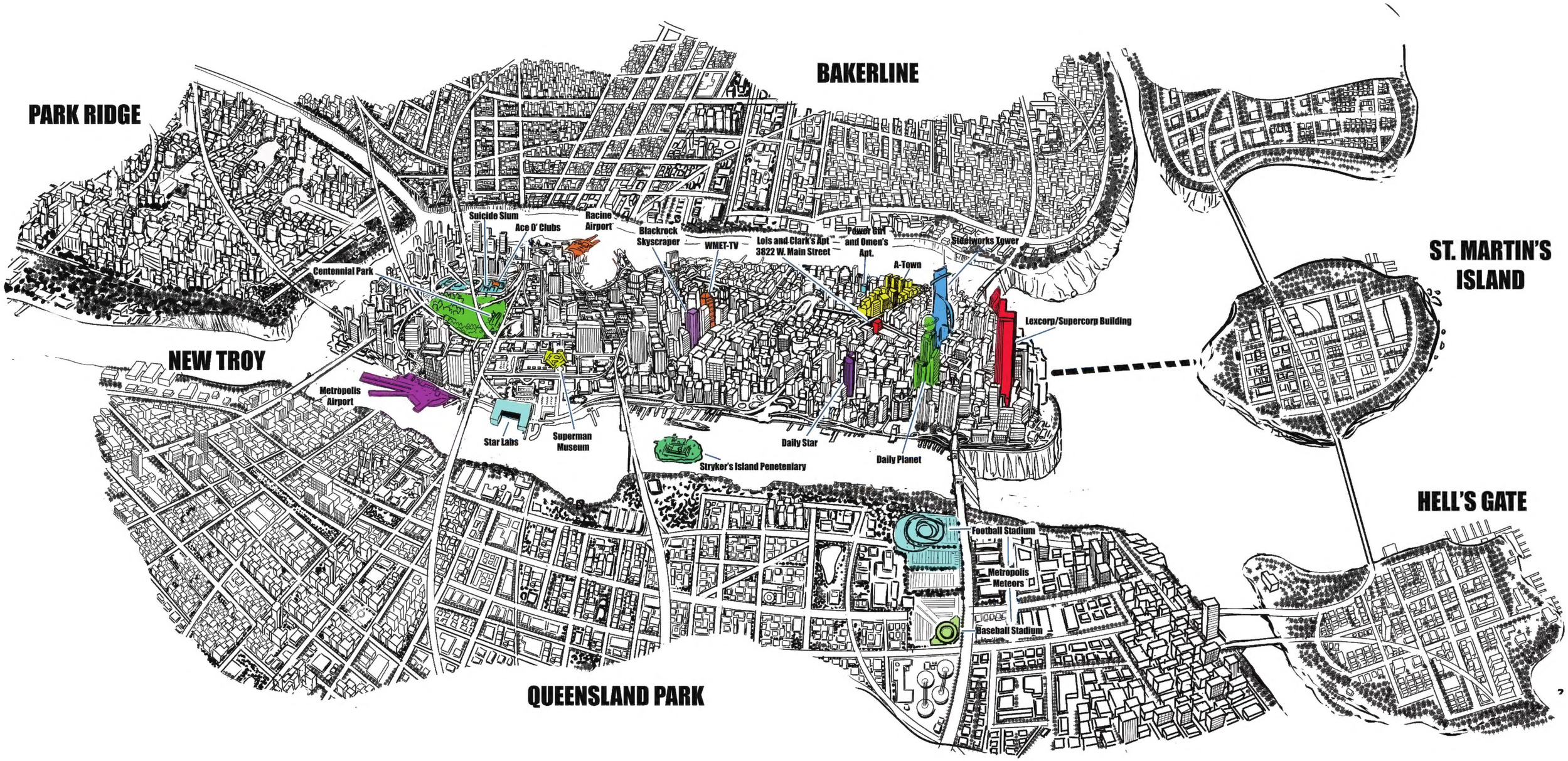

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VOL. 3

ABSOLUTE POWER TIE-IN

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"